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ROBERTO AGUIRRE-SACASA • RAMON BACHS • PAUL MOUNTS

# The Sensational SPIDER-MAN®

BACK IN BLACK



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# The Strange Case of...

PART  
TWO  
OF THREE

SIX DAYS AGO:

"DON'T BE STUPID."

AND  
DON'T MAKE ME  
FIGHT YOU.

W-WHY?  
YOU--

--SKIK-  
SKIK--

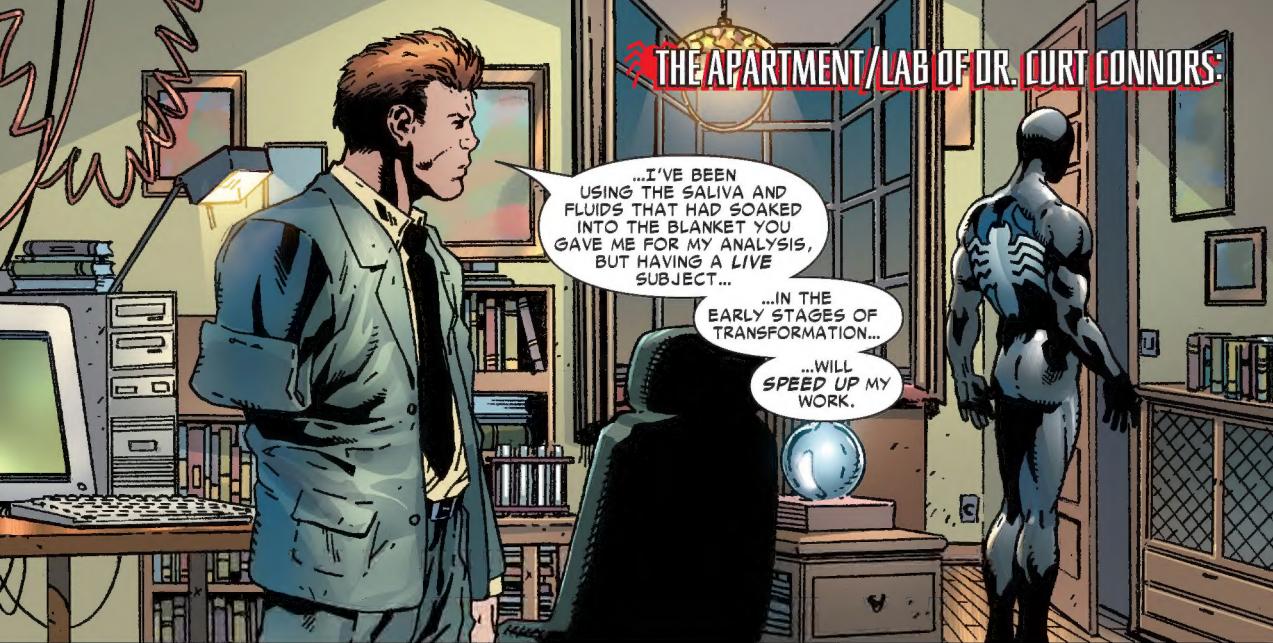
--YOU SC-  
SCARED?

YES.  
YES, I  
AM.  
BUT I HAVE A  
FRIEND WHO'S WORKING  
ON WHAT'S DOING THIS TO  
YOU. WHO I THINK CAN  
REVERSE--

S-SHUT--  
--SKIK-  
SKIK--  
--UP!



## THE APARTMENT/LAB OF DR. CURT CONNORS:





THE PRESENT.

POLICE DETECTIVE JONAS FOGG:

I'M PERTURBED, GENTLEMEN.

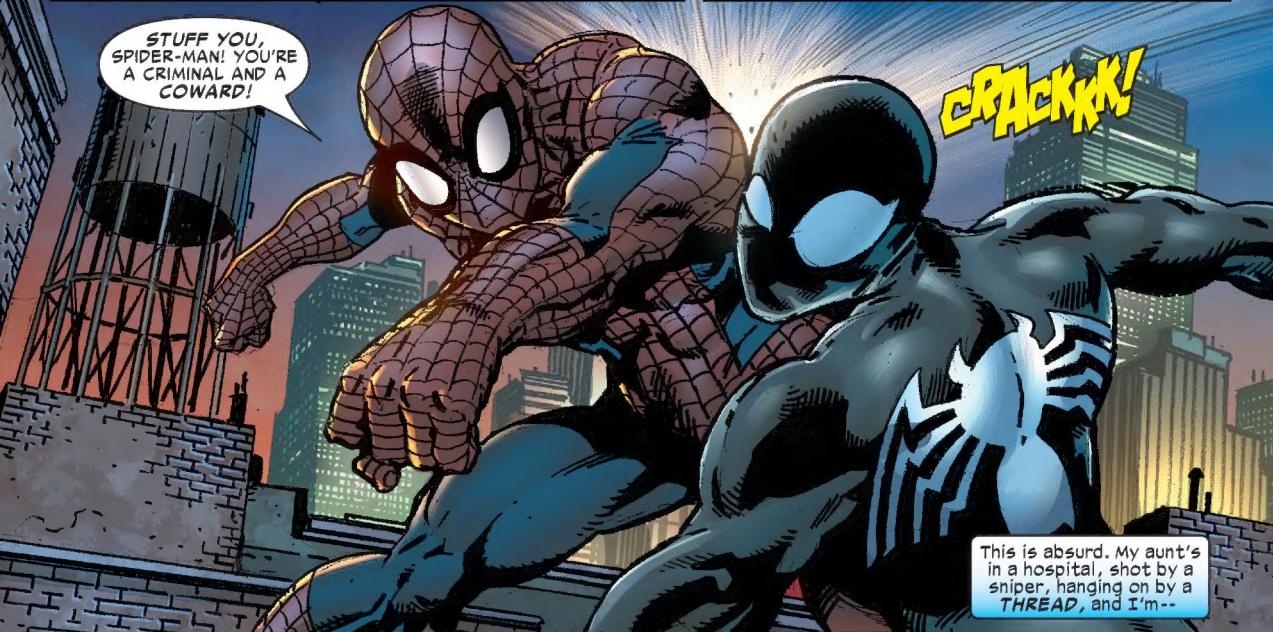
BECAUSE THIS IS A MYSTERY AND I HATE MYSTERIES. CONAN DOYLE? HATE 'IM. AGATHA CHRISTIE? LOATHES HER.



YOU'RE ALL HOMELESS MALES, AGED 13 TO 18. YOU WERE ALL ABDUCTED (IN A NON-VIOLENT WAY) BY AN UNKNOWN MALE AND TAKEN TO AN UNKNOWN LOCATION, WHERE YOU WERE CLEANED, FED, AND HELD FOR AN UNKNOWN AMOUNT OF TIME, BUT PROBABLY DAYS OR WEEKS.







--I GOT to you when I did.



Another one for the mix. Curt should already be at the police station, like we arranged. Same as me, he's been working 'round the clock on this...



THE FORMULA THAT GRANTED YOU YOUR..."SPIDER-POWERS" IS A SERUM VERY SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT TURNS ME INTO THE LIZARD CREATURE.

(OF COURSE, THE BASE ENZYMEs IN YOUR FORMULA ARE ARACHNID-- IN MINE, THEY WERE REPTILIAN.)



...THE MORE PROFOUND YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS WILL EVENTUALLY BE.

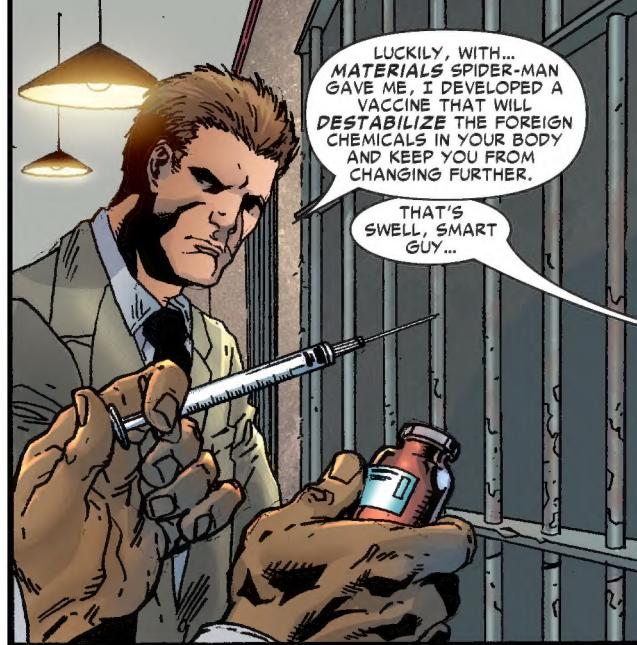


THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?



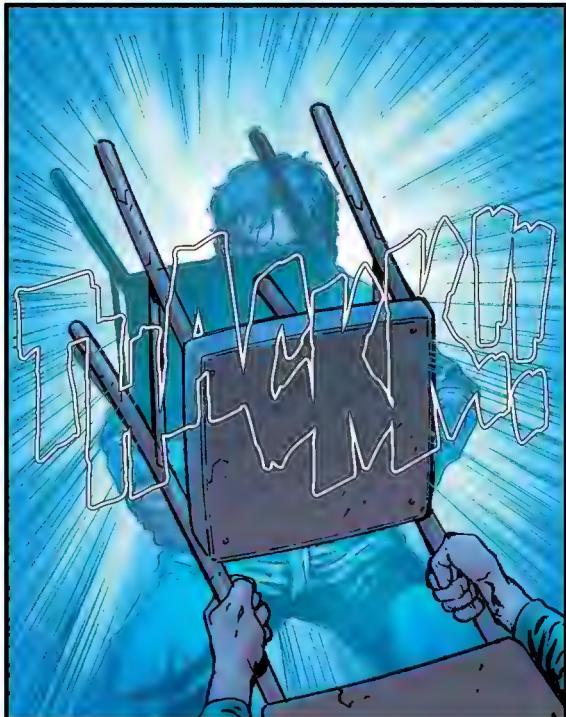
MIGHT AS WELL TELL 'EM, DOC. THEY'RE TOUGH KIDS--THEY CAN TAKE IT.

IT MEANS...





SOMEWHERE HIDDEN.  
JORDAN HARRISON:







THE NEXT DAY

Chevys

FRESH MEX. 

When Richards calls me to meet, I suggest the Chevys in Times Square.

(Ironically, not far from where we were **PULVERIZING** ourselves at the end of the **WAR**.)

Lots of tourists, always crowded, less chance we'll be recognized.

THE GOOD NEWS IS...YOU GOT HIM TO ME IN TIME.  
ETHAN MYERS--THE BOY YOU BROKE OUT OF JAIL--IS ALIVE AND STABLE.

Thank God. I **WASN'T** sure Mr. Fantastic would help me since I'm not part of his so-called "INITIATIVE"...

AND? DID YOU GET THE FORMULA FROM CONNORS? TO REVERSE HIS METAMORPHOSIS?

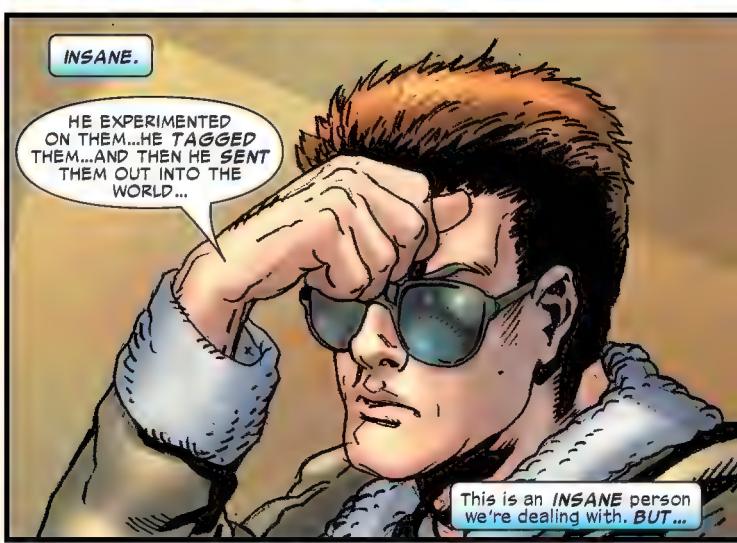
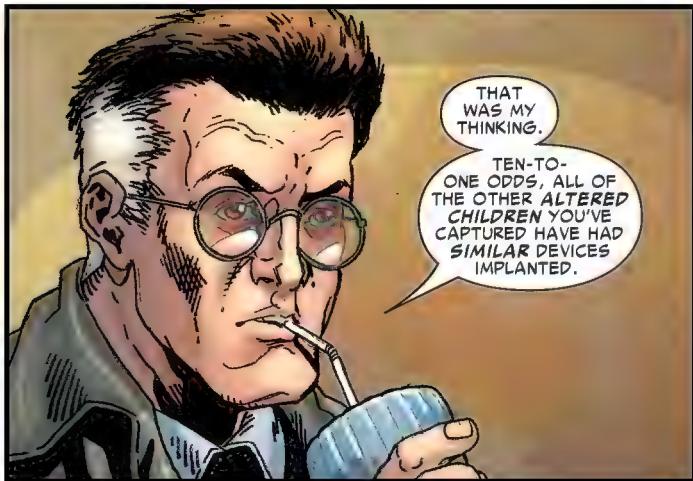
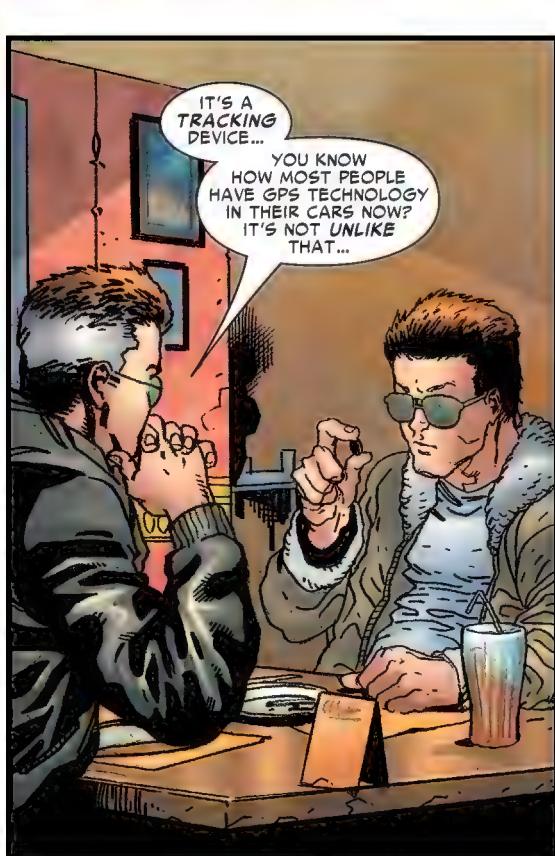
YES.  
ALTHOUGH...  
...I COULD'VE MANUFACTURED AN ANTIDOTE MYSELF.

I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR HANDS WITH JUST...SAVING ETHAN'S LIFE.

(And being Tony Stark's LAPDOG.)

(God, this is **TERRIBLE**. Reed and I used to be friends. Now I can **BARELY** look him in the eye. Even asking for this much help feels...**WRONG**.)

WELL,  
I CERTAINLY DID MORE THAN THAT, PETER.  
WHILE EXAMINING HIM, I ALSO FOUND...







## UNDERNEATH MANHATTAN:

Reed found traces of dust and silt on Ethan Myers' body.

MICROSCOPIC traces.

Which reminded him of DUST SAMPLES he found on one of the Mole Man's monsters during a FIGHT in a New York City subway tunnel.

(This was YEARS ago.)

(He's got that kind of BRAIN, I guess...)

ELSEWHERE.

ZABO  
AUDIO JOURNAL, ENTRY  
NUMBER ONE HUNDRED  
AND TWELVE.

"SPIDER  
PROJECT" DAY...  
EIGHTEEN.

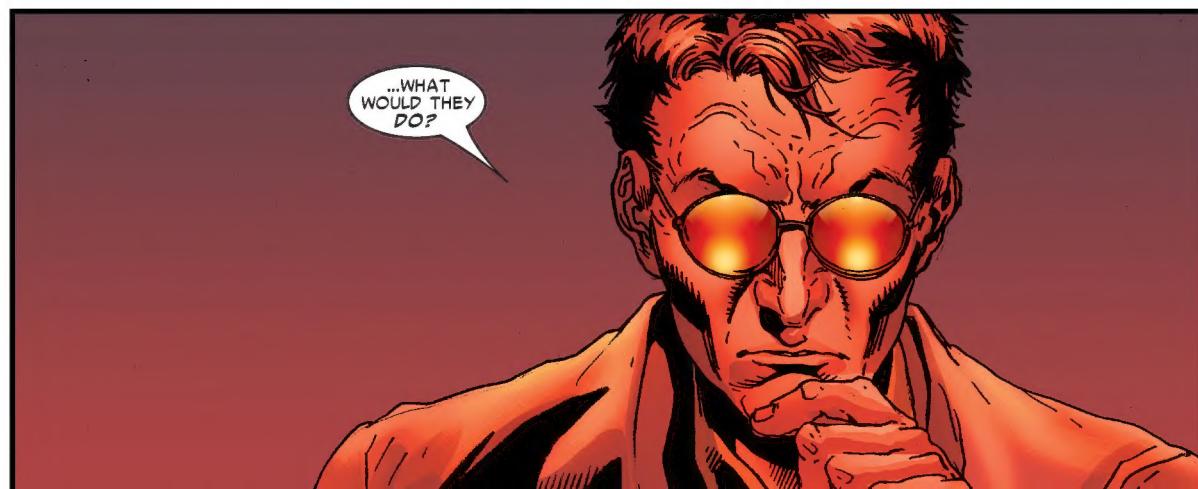
MY  
PEERS WON'T  
UNDERSTAND...

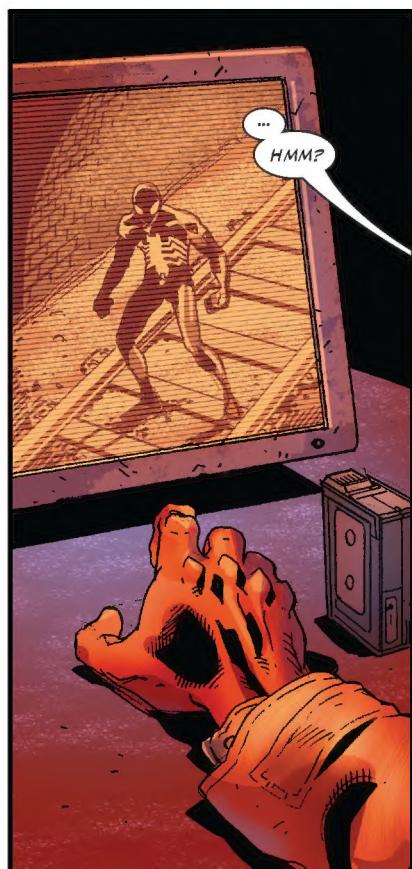
MY NEED TO...  
UNDERSTAND...



A FIFTEEN-YEAR-  
OLD BOY SOMEHOW  
ACQUIRES THE  
PROPORTIONATE SPEED,  
STRENGTH AND AGILITY  
OF A TRAP-DOOR  
SPIDER...  
...AND  
DECIDES TO  
DO GOOD.







ZABO AUDIO  
JOURNAL ENTRY  
NUMBER ONE  
HUNDRED AND  
TWELVE:

I HAVE  
TO GO AWAY  
NOW.

THE NEXT VOICE  
YOU HEAR WON'T BE  
MINE, BUT THAT OF MY  
ASSOCIATE...

